

State of Montana **Montana Veterans Affairs**

"The people declare that Montana servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans may be given special considerations determined by the legislature"

Article II, Section 35, Montana Constitution



AN INFORMATIONAL AID

**FOR MONTANA'S
VETERANS AND
FAMILY MEMBERS**

Montana's "Veteran" and "Patriot" License Plate Program

As a veteran, you are eligible to purchase a "**Veteran**" vehicle license plate. The **Veteran** license plate costs \$10 annually, and its statewide sales are earmarked to maintain and operate our state veterans cemetery program. We currently have three veterans cemeteries: Fort Harrison (near Helena), Miles City, and Missoula. You can display your veteran pride with the plate, while keeping our cemeteries operated and maintained to National Shrine Standards.

The "**Patriot**" vehicle license plate is available to all licensed drivers, and cost \$15 annually. The proceeds help fund our veterans services program, which includes all our statewide service offices.

FEDERAL VA – MONTANA INFORMATION

FORT HARRISON VA CENTER
(406) 442-6410

FEDERAL VA WEBSITE
www.montana.va.gov

HEALTHCARE INFORMATION

1-877-4MT-VETS (1-877-468-8387)

Press 1: Medication Refills

Press 2: Appointment Scheduling

Press 3: Patient Advocate

Healthcare Eligibility & Enrollment:
442-6410 ext. 7460; 7468 or 7457

Billing Inquiries or Patient Account Information: 447-7600

Medication Dial-A-Refill: 447-7921
Outpatient Pharmacist: 447-7974

Prosthetic Services: (wheel chairs, canes, oxygen supplies; hearing aids and glasses): 447-7952

Patient Travel Office: 447-7626

Homeless Veteran Program Coordinators: 447-7309

Disabled American Veteran Transport Program to VA Medial Facilities
Ft. Harrison: 447-7760 Billings: 651-2143

Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

Homeless Veteran Program: Call 1-877-4AID VET (1-877-424-3838)

Federal VA Veterans Service Facilities

Anaconda VA Primary Care Clinic
118 East 7th St., 2nd Floor
Anaconda, MT 59711
1-877-468-8387

Billings VA Community Based Clinic
2345 King Avenue W.
Billings, MT 59102
(406) 373-3500
1-877-468-8387
or
1775 Spring Creek Lane
Billings, MT 59602
(406) 373-3520

Billings Vet Center
2795 Enterprise Ave. Ste. 1
Billings, MT 59102
(406) 657-6071

Bozeman VA Primary Care Clinic
300 N. Willson, Ste. 703G
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 582-5300 or 1-877-468-8387

Cut Bank VA Primary Care Clinic
519 East Main Street
Cut Bank, MT 59427
(406) 873-9047

Glasgow VA Primary Care Clinic
630 Second St. S., Ste A
Glasgow, MT 59230
(406) 228-4101

Glendive VA Primary Care Clinic
2000 Montana Avenue
Glendive, MT 59330
(406) 377-4755

Great Falls VA Primary Care Clinic
1417 9th St. S. Ste. 300
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 791-3200 or 1-877-468-8387

Havre VA Primary Care Clinic
130 13th Street, Ste. 1
Havre, MT 59501
(406) 265-4304 or 1-877-468-8387

Kalispell VA Primary Care Clinic
31 Three Mile Drive, Ste. 102
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 758-2700 or 1-877-468-8387

Lewistown VA Primary Care Clinic
629 NE Main Street, Ste. 1
Lewistown, MT 59457
(406) 535-4790

Libby VA Primary Care Clinic
211 E. 2nd St.
Libby, MT 59923
(406) 293-8711

Miles City VA Primary Care Clinic & Nursing Home
210 S. Winchester
Miles City, MT 59301
(406) 874-5600
1-888-461-1000

Missoula VA Primary Care Clinic
2687 Palmer Street, Ste C
Missoula, MT 59808
(406) 829-5400 or 1-877-468-8387

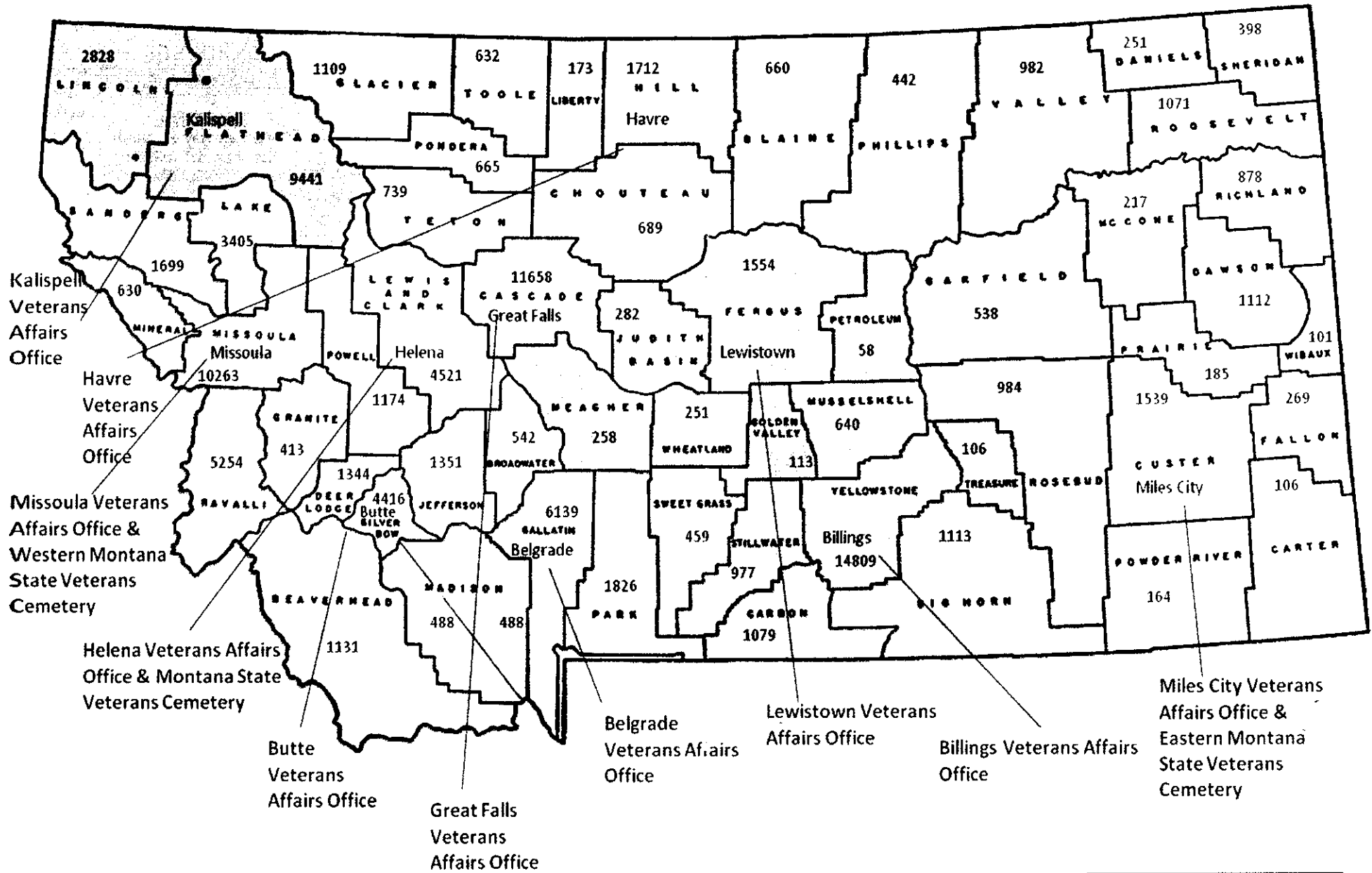
Missoula Vet Center
500 N. Higgins, Ste. 202
Missoula, MT 59802
(406) 721-4918
1-800-626-8686

VA Medical Center
3687 Veterans Drive
P.O. Box 1500
Ft. Harrison, MT 59636-1500
(406) 442-6410 or
1-877-468-8387

VA Regional Office
3633 Veterans Drive
Ft. Harrison, MT 59636
1-800-827-1000

Telehealth Appointments:
Hamilton (406) 363-3352
Plentywood (406) 765-3700

Montana Veterans Affairs Division Services Offices and Montana State Veterans Cemeteries



MONTANA VETERANS AFFAIRS DIVISION **VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES**

Did you know that...

There are about 108,000 Montana veterans, with many eligible for benefits due to their military service. The State of Montana and the federal VA has an extremely wide spectrum of benefits. However, many veterans are not aware of the benefits and assistance available to them; and will not attain any unless they personally apply for the benefits.

The Montana Board of Veterans Affairs goal is to inform as many people as possible that there is assistance available; and that assistance is provided – at no charge – by the State of Montana's Veterans Affairs Division, which has service offices located throughout the state.

Each service officer is fully trained, accredited and certified, to provide the best service possible for the veteran or veteran family member client. All it takes is a phone call or an e-mail message.

Federal and State Programs and Benefits Offered to Veterans:

- Health Care
- Service-Connected Disability Compensation
- Pension
- Education and Training
- Burial and Survivor Benefits
- Employment Services
- Vehicle Registration Waiver
- Property Tax Waiver
- Home and Business Loans

Every program or benefit has specific qualifying eligibility criteria. It is very important that veterans contact the nearest State of Montana Veteran Service Office to determine specific benefits or entitlements attainable. Each and every veteran's military experience is singular, and the benefits available are specific to the veteran.

BELGRADE
350 Airport Road
Belgrade, MT 59714
(406) 388-4601
bzmnmvad@gwestoffice.net

BILLINGS
2795 Enterprise Ave.
Billings, MT 59102
(406) 248-8579
blngsmvad@bresnan.net

BUTTE
600 Gilman Avenue
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 533-0910
btemvad11@bresnan.net

GREAT FALLS
600 Central Plaza #300
Great Falls, MT 59401
(406) 452-2265
dave1gfmvad@bresnan.net

HAVRE
232 1st St. W., PO Box 20
Havre, MT 59501
1-877-265-8387 (toll free)
(406) 265-4225
mvadhavre1@bresnan.net

LEWISTOWN
505 W. Main
Lewistown, MT 59459
(406) 538-3174
lstwmvad@gwestoffice.net

KALISPELL
2989 Highway 93 North
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 755-3795
kalmvad@centurytel.net

MILES CITY
210 S. Winchester
Miles City, MT 59301
(406) 232-1203
omvaffairs@gwestoffice.net

MISSOULA
1911 Tower Street
Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 542-2501
mslamvad@bresnan.net

HELENA
VARO Ft. Harrison, Room 110 E
3633 Veterans Drive
Ft. Harrison, MT 59636
(406) 495-2080 or (406) 495-2082
elizabeth.larson@va.gov

State of Montana Veterans Nursing Homes

Montana Veterans Home
PO Box 250
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
(406) 892-3256

Eastern Montana Veterans Home
2000 Montana Avenue
Glendive, MT 59330
(406) 345-8855

STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES

MONTANA STATE VETERANS
CEMETERY
PO Box 5715
Helena, MT 59604
(406) 324-3742
wcarlson@mt.gov

EASTERN MONTANA
STATE
VETERANS CEMETERY
Highway 59 & Cemetery
Road
Miles City, MT 59301
(406) 951-1325
emsvc@midrivers.com

WESTERN MONTANA
STATE VETERANS
CEMETERY
1911 Tower Road
Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 531-1105
wmsvc@gwestoffice.net

State of Montana **Veterans Cemetery** **Program**

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HISTORY OF MONTANA'S STATE VETERAN CEMETERIES

In 1985, the Montana State Legislature authorized the first state veterans cemetery to be located on Fort Harrison, near Helena. Rule making authority was authorized, and funds were appropriated to support the cemetery.

In 1986, the United States Congress authorized the transfer of 62.5 acres of Federal land to the State of Montana for this new cemetery. Applications were submitted to the federal Department of Veterans Affairs for federal matching funds, which would fund an irrigation system, a well, roads and design a Master Plan. In 1987, the legislature passed a one time revenue check off in the state income tax return to raise funds. This enabled a part-time Cemetery Sexton to be hired. The first burial was a World War I veteran on September 8, 1987.

In 1991, legislation created the "Veteran" license plate. A motor vehicle owner and resident of Montana, who is a veteran or his/her surviving spouse (if not remarried), may be issued a "Veteran" license plate. National Guard and Reserve retirees or those with a "20 year letter", or surviving spouses (if not remarried), may also have the "Veteran" plate. The plate costs \$10 for original issue and all renewals. The entire \$10 supports the State Veterans Cemetery Program.

Legislation was passed for a second state veterans cemetery, which opened in 2002 at Miles City. A third state cemetery—to be located in Missoula County—was legislatively authorized in 2005. The Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery was constructed and became operational October 6, 2008.

Each year numerous businesses, organizations, and individuals donate material, labor, equipment, and funding to continue cemetery improvements, all are operated in accordance with National Shrine Standards—the same standard as Arlington National Cemetery.

MONTANA STATE VETERANS CEMETERY GUIDELINES

Any veteran with an "Honorable or "Under Honorable Conditions" discharge is eligible for interment in one of Montana's state veterans cemeteries. To confirm your eligibility for burial benefits, contact a veterans service officer (see back of pamphlet). A copy of the discharge form, (DD Form-214) is necessary to determine this eligibility.

Spouses and minor children under the age of 21 are also entitled to burial in the state veterans cemetery, as long as the veteran has been or will also be buried in the same cemetery. If the spouse is a veteran, he/she is entitled to his/her own plot and headstone. This is the only time plot reservations are made, and enable the veteran husband and wife to be side by side.

Veterans are entitled to a government provided headstone for the gravesite, whether it is in the state veterans cemetery or in a private cemetery. Certain basic information will be inscribed on the headstone or marker at government expense, such as the name of the deceased, years of birth and death, and branch of service. Optional items that may also be included at government expense are military service component, rank, period of war service, religious emblem, valor awards received, and the Purple Heart. The government also provides a headstone for the spouse if they are laid to rest in a state veterans cemetery where their spouse, the veteran, is already buried or will be buried upon demise. The government does not provide a headstone for the spouse in a private cemetery.

There is no charge for the plot in a state veterans cemetery; nor is there a charge for the opening and closing of the grave for the veteran. Should the spouse pass away before the veteran or after the veteran has been buried in the state cemetery, they may also be interred with the veteran, however, the family would be responsible for a \$300 opening and closing charge. The headstone will be updated when both veteran and spouse are deceased, it will include both names.

Documents Required for Burial

VETERAN:

- <> Copy of the death certificate.
- <> Discharge papers. (DD Form-214 or equivalent)
- <> Burial transit permit for full burial and cremation burial and a cremation certificate for cremation burial. These will be provided by the mortuary.

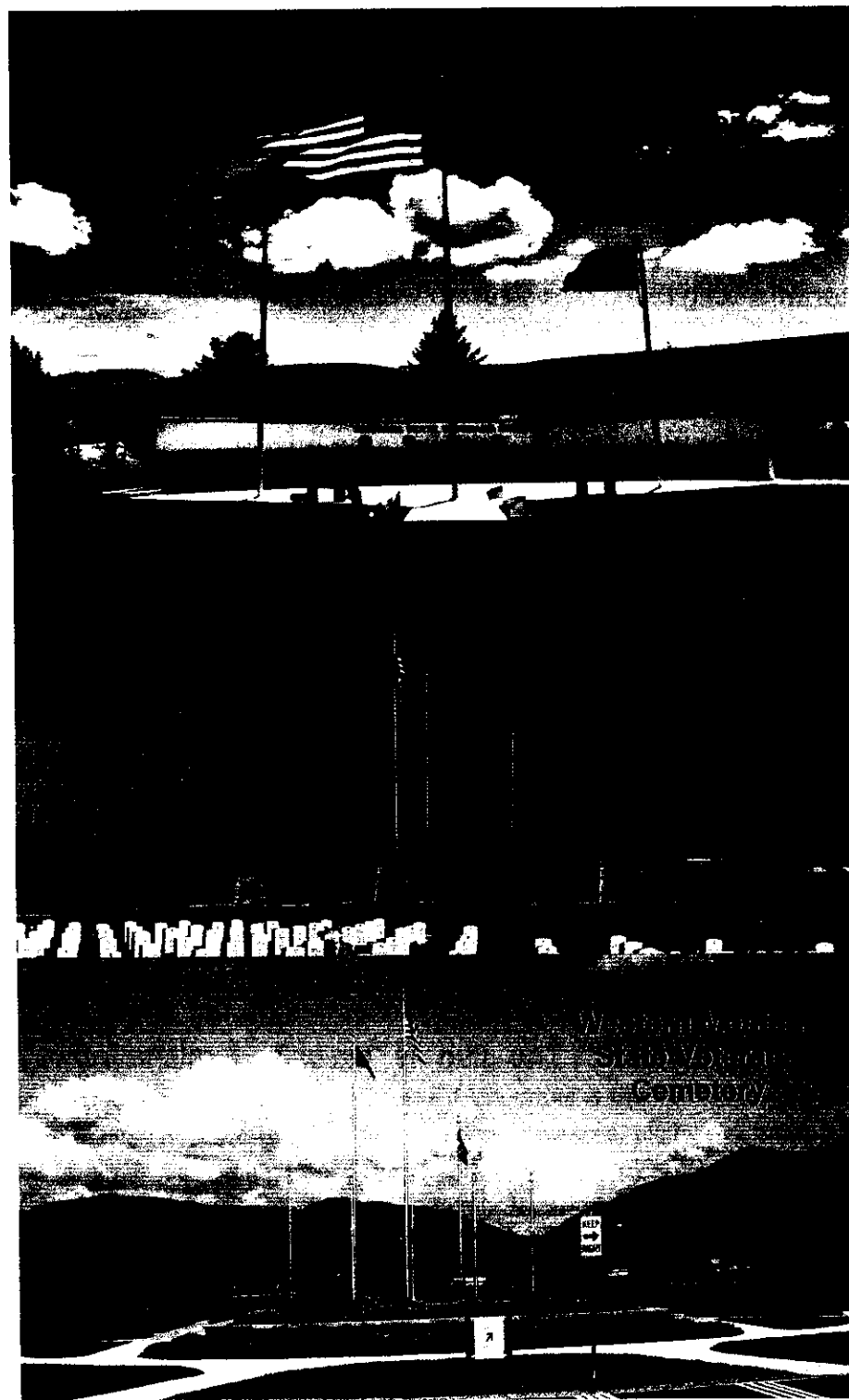
The headstone is furnished by the government as a benefit to the veteran, at no cost. A headstone application will be filled out by the Cemetery Sexton. There is a \$115.00 charge to set the headstone. The veteran's county of residence in Montana will pay \$70.00 of this amount. The family is responsible for the remaining \$45.00.

Out Of State residents and spouses must pay the full \$115.00.

SPOUSE:

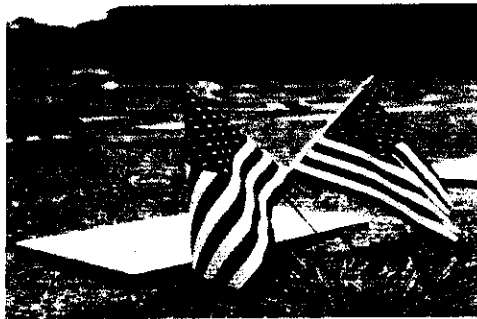
- <> Copy of death certificate.
- <> Veteran spouse's discharge papers. (DD-Form 214 or equivalent)
- <> \$300.00 fee for opening and closing the grave.
- <> Burial transit permit for full burial and cremation burial and a cremation certificate for cremation burial. These will be provided by the mortuary.

The headstone is furnished by the government as a benefit to the veteran/spouse, at no cost. However, the family will be responsible for the \$115.00 setting fee cost. The Cemetery Sexton will complete the headstone application.



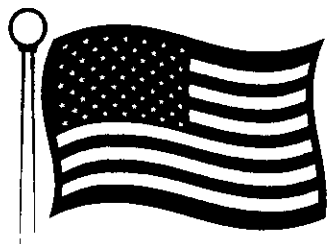
Arranging Burial

The next of kin or the family's funeral director of choice **can** make arrangements directly with the cemetery. **Be-**
fore burial can take place, cemetery staff must verify the **veteran's** eligibility. To enable the staff to do this, the **next** of kin or funeral director must provide the cemetery **staff** with a copy of the veteran's discharge papers; or



Burial Flag Program

The VA provides a U.S. Flag to drape the casket. After the funeral service, the flag may be given to the next of kin. The flag is typically furnished by

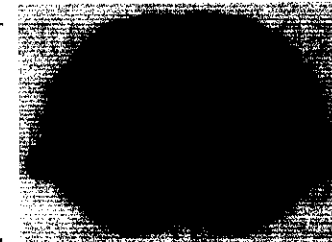


Presidential Memorial Certificate Program

A Presidential Memorial Certificate is inscribed with the veteran's name and bears the President's signature to honor the memory of honorably discharged, deceased veterans. Authorized recipients include next of kin and loved ones. Please send your written request to:

Presidential Memorial Certificates
Department of Veterans Affairs
5109 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22143-3909

The Department of Veterans Affairs is making available a new medallion to be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased's status as a veteran. If requested, the medallion will be furnished in lieu of a traditional Government headstone or marker for veterans that died on or after November 1, 1990, and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or currently available in inches, and 1 ½ inches. scribed with the word and the Branch of Service appropriate affixing adhesive, will be provided with the medallion.



marker. The medallion is three sizes, 5 inches, 3 inches, and 1 ½ inches. Each medallion will be inscribed with the word VETERAN across the top and the Branch of Service at the bottom. Appropriate instructions and hardware

Important: This benefit is only applicable if the grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. In these instances, eligible veterans are entitled to either a traditional Government-furnished headstone or marker, or the new medallion, but not both. **Note: These medallions are not applicable to headstones or markers located in a state veterans cemetery.**

For more information, call (406) 324-3743.